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Rhoda Darby

Waverley,

1871

Hours for *Dundridge*

1900

Hours for Dundridge





**Evening and Morning and at Noon
will I pray, and cry aloud, and he
will hear my voice.**

Psalm 55, v. 18.

THE
Devout Companion:

CONTAINING

PRAYERS

AND

MEDITATIONS,

FOR

Every Day in the Week;

*And for several Occasions, Ordinary and
Extraordinary.*

A NEW EDITION,
Revised and Corrected from the Twenty-
sixth Edition.

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The Publisher of this Manual of Devotions, (apparently the Work of Bishop Synge) finding it quite out of print, has had it revised and corrected by the favour of a Very Reverend Dean ; who recommends it as a useful collection of Prayers and Devotional Meditations, for the seriously disposed individual of every denomination of Christians.

TO THE
TRULY HONoured
THE LADY J. C.

MADAM,

AT your request these ensuing *Prayers and Meditations* were composed, which I here present to your view; not that you want my weak instructions, for you are known to be so good a proficient in God's school, and have more of this heavenly language by heart, than I can instruct you by *precept*.

The *Meditations* I have taken from the *Psalms* of that sweet singer of *Israel*, the royal Prophet: and this key opens not only the kingdom of grace, but the kingdom of Heaven too: it being an exact composure of all christian virtues.

No worshipping can be more true or more spiritual than the *Psalter*, said with a pure mind and a hearty devo-

EPISTLE DEDICATORY.

tion. For *David* was God's instrument to the *Church*, teaching and admonishing (as our duty is to each other) in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody unto the Lord.

In your voyage to the Almighty, you might have (I doubt not) a better chart or compass to sail by than this form of prayer which I prescribe, yet I beseech you, encourage others, by your pious example to feed upon this milk for babes (those who are weak) by tasting of it yourself.

So recommending it to your pious acceptance, wishing you all the happiness that this earthly paradise can afford, whilst you remain upon earth, and at the last a crown of immortality and glory in the highest heavens, is the earnest desire of,

Madam,

Your humble and faithful
Servant in Christ Jesus,

E. S.

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THE
DEVOUT COMPANION:

CONTAINING

Meditations and Prayers

For every Day in the Week, &c.



A PREPARATORY PRAYER AGAINST
WANDERING THOUGHTS AND VAIN
IMAGINATIONS.

*Thrice holy, blessed, and glorious
Trinity, three persons and one
God, have mercy upon me, a
miserable sinner!*

O ALMIGHTY God, the only
giver and bestower of all good
things, and without whose special
favor and grace, no one hath power

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to perform any spiritual duty as he ought to do. O Lord, I know not what to pray for as I ought; O let thy Spirit help my infirmities, and enable me to offer up a spiritual sacrifice acceptable unto thee by Jesus Christ.

II. Make me to remember into whose presence I am come, and with whom I have to do; even with a God of infinite Majesty; before whom the cherubims veil their faces, as being astonished at the presence of so great a God as thou art. How dare I then, a most vile and sinful creature, who am but dust and ashes, presume to appear at this time before thee! who have drunk iniquity like water, breaking so often thy holy laws and commandments, by the committing those things thou forbiddest, and leaving undone those good things which thou commandest.

III. But I come unto thee, O



Lord, in the Name of thy dear Son Jesus Christ the righteous, who hath redeemed me with his most precious blood. O then look upon me in him, and for the merits of his sufferings, pardon all my sins, and blot out my offences; strike an awful reverence in my soul, that I may continually keep a watch over all my thoughts, words, and actions, lest by presumption, and want of due reverence unto thy Deity, I should turn my prayers into sin.

IV. Give me a lively apprehension of all my wants and necessities, and a right understanding, both of those blessings which I have received from thee, and of those great mercies which thou hast promised to bestow on them that ask thee; that so I may be endued with expressions both for prayer and thankfulness; and may become able, by the assistance of thy grace to pour out my soul continually before thee.

Support me with faith, that I may come with a good assurance unto the throne of grace, to offer up my earnest supplications unto thee; and let me not go away from thy presence without a blessing.

V. Grant, O Lord, that this holy exercise of prayer may prove a delight unto me ! O make me constant and diligent in the use of it ; ever remembering the speedy access the prayers of the faithful have in thy presence, and what a great privilege it is for poor mortals to unfold their wants, and lay open their desires and griefs before thee.

VI. Ever, O Lord, let the end of my prayers be to thy glory ; always exercising a conscience void of offence, by offering up my thanksgivings for mercies received, as I shall be earnest in suing for those gifts and graces I stand in need of. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for

the sake of thy dear Son, my only Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

MEDITATIONS FOR SUNDAY.

THIS is the day which the Lord hath made, a day of rest to our bodies and for the benefit of our souls. O let us rejoice and be glad in it all the days of our lives; leaving off our worldly thoughts and employments, and be seeking after our future happiness.

II. Great is the Lord, and great is the honour of this day above all others. The *Jews* keep holy the seventh day, and we *Christians* the *Sunday* or *Lord's day*: They, in their sabbath, were especially to remember the creation of the world, but we in ours, the resurrection of Christ, who hath made a way for us into that better world which we expect hereafter.

III. This convinceth the folly of the *Jews*, who are so superstitious in observing the ceremony of rest, as that they think they ought not to prepare them food for their bodily sustenance on the sabbath day, neither do any work, though it be for the refectation of life itself.

But God, in the institution of the sabbath, so rested, (whose example we ought to imitate,) as that he ceased not in resting from doing good, but in ceasing to create; he continued to preserve, of which our Saviour saith, *My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.*

IV. This day is set apart to be employed in the worship and service of God: First, more solemnly and publicly in the house of God, from whence you ought not to absent yourself, unless sickness or some extraordinary occasion prevent you. Secondly, at home pri-

vately praying with your family, or in your closet exercising those other duties of reading and meditation.

V. O praise the Lord then, O my soul, and enter into contemplation with thyself upon all his mercies! Consider what a great benefit it is to thee, that there is such a set time weekly for thy spiritual relief and comfort; cast off all worldly business then, and freely embrace this joyful day of harvest, whereby we may lay up in store for the whole week, nay even for our whole lives.

VI. This day furnishes us with that golden rule by which we may square all our actions, and at last attain to the perfection of him whom the royal psalmist makes mention of to be a pattern of true goodness, and tells you, *The Lord ordereth a good man's going; and maketh his way acceptable to himself: Though he fall, he shall not*

be cast away; for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.

VII. The law of God is in his heart, and his goings shall not slide. O send out thy light and thy truth, that they may lead me, and bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy dwelling. And that I may go to the altar of God, even to the God of my joy and gladness; and upon the harp will I give thanks unto thee, O God, my God. We wait for thy loving kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple.

A MORNING PRAYER FOR SUNDAY.
FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD.

MOST mighty and gracious God, who hast brought me out of the night's darkness into the marvellous light of thy truth, that I may rejoice in the day of my visitation and salvation, whereby the day-spring from on high hath visi-

ted me; vouchsafe me the unspeakable benefit of thy heavenly succour.

II. This day make me to hear thy voice, and not harden my heart through unbelief or deceitfulness of sin, but that by faith I may enter into thy promised rest. Give grace unto me, O Lord, and to all people to walk circumspectly and diligently, to do such good works wherewith thou mayest be well pleased; so that walking in thy ways, and according to thy commandments, I may work out my own salvation with fear and trembling; that as my body draws nearer the grave, my soul may approach the nearer heaven.

III. O Lord, I beseech thee to be merciful unto me; and as of thy goodness thou givest me time to repent, so of thine infinite mercy give me a true, holy, and perfect repentance, never to be repented of: And grant, O Lord, that I may

unfeignedly resolve and effectually labour to amend my life this day, even unto my life's end, that so I may never be tempted above what I am able to bear.

IV. I am beginning the week ; but, alas ! I begin not to reform my life and conversation, but the more weeks pass over my head, the greater burthen of sin I take upon me, and the more defile my conscience : day by day I run on in my wickedness, and never say to myself, What have I done ? If I should at this week's end, cast up the account of my good deeds, how few lines, alas, would they contain !

V. O Lord, I beseech thee, pardon and forgive me all my sins ; remove them out of thy presence as far distant as the east is from the west. Accept me in the death and passion of thy dear Son Jésus Christ, that when I shall come into thy ho-

ly temple, to compass thine altar, my prayers may come up before thee as incense, and the lifting up of my hands, even like to an evening sacrifice.

VI. And as I desire that thou wouldest hear me calling upon thee in my prayers, so give me grace to hear thee calling upon me in thy word. It is the word of truth, wisdom, righteousness, and reconciliation, which is able to save my soul in the day of the Lord Jesus; Grant therefore, that I may hear it with reverence, receive it with meekness, and mingle it also with faith that so it may accomplish in me that good work, for which thou hast sent it.

VII. I know not, O Lord, how to worship thee as I ought: My sins have made a wall of separation betwixt thee and me, so that neither my prayers can ascend up unto thee

as they should nor thy graces descend upon me as I would desire them. O break, I beseech thee, this partition wall, slide thou down into this secret habitation of my heart by thy mighty power, and strengthen every corner of that neglected house, by the brightness of thy illumination: Feed thou every secret part, both of my mind and body: Keep me from sin, and let me serve thee this day in the sanctuary.

VIII. Bless those messengers of thine O Lord, that break unto me the bread of life. As thou hast placed them like beacons on thy holy hill, the church, give them grace (with the five wise virgins) that their light may never go forth, but still shine brightly, to arm us, thy people, against the invasion of that enemy of mankind, the devil and his army, that day and night seek to devour us.

IX. Let me spend the rest of my uncertain life in a renewed repentance for my sins past, and an holy resolution to serve thee for the time to come. Grant, O Lord, these and all other graces meet for me, for thy Son's sake, my only Lord and Saviour: To whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all praise and honour, and glory for evermore. *Amen.*

A PRAYER AT OUR ENTRANCE INTO
THE CHURCH.

O ALMIGHTY God, who dwellest in that light which no mortal is able to approach unto, yet art present with us in this thy sacred house! O Lord, my God, my only comfort, and riches, what am I that I dare now speak unto thee! I am thy poor servant: Teach me for to climb and ascend up unto thee by invocation and prayer.

22 *Prayer at our Entrance into Church.*

II. Make this religious place as thine ark, and let thy dove, thy holy spirit, enter in at these windows; let a good measure of thy word, and an effectual preaching thereof be evermore preserved and distributed in this place. Let no evil leprosy ever enter into these walls, nor the hand of sacrilege ever fall upon them.

III. The harvest is great, but the labourers are few; send forth I beseech thee, more into thy vineyard, and endue them with such wisdom as becometh thy holy gospel. Open unto them the door of utterance, and unto me the gate of understanding, that so they may faithfully dispense thy mysteries, and I most fervently embrace the same, to thy glory and the salvation of my soul, through Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

**A PRAYER FOR SUNDAY NOON.
FOR PERSEVERANCE.**

O GOD, most gracious and merciful, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, but art willing that all should partake of thy celestial love; I have this day visited thy house, the place where thine honour dwelleth; grant, I beseech thee, that I may still persevere and press forward in that holy duty of serving thee all the days of my life.

II. Vouchsafe to me O Lord, I beseech thee, thy heavenly grace, that I may avoid the precipices of sin, which lead to destruction, and endeavour to serve thee, in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life: grant that in thy light I may see light; and as I have begun this day in praising and lauding thy holy name, so let it end to thy glory: To whom be ascribed all honour,

power, and glory, both now, and for evermore. *Amen.*

**A PRAYER FOR THE AFTERNOON AFTER
SERMON: A THANKSGIVING
FOR THE WORD PREACHED.**

O LORD most holy, whose truth endureth from everlasting to everlasting! Thou hast been very merciful and gracious to me, and hast filled me, who am hungry with good things, and none of thy servants dost thou send empty away from thy holy sanctuary: plant thy fear in my heart, and give me wisdom and understanding, and make me to have pleasure in thee and all thy works, that obeying the precepts of thy holy gospel and performing the conditions of thy covenant, which thou hast established for ever in truth and equity, in verity and judgment, I may worthily praise and adore thy holy name among the faithful in this life, and

in the congregation of saints in the life to come, through thy mercies, O blessed Jesus, to whom with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**A PRAYER FOR SUNDAY EVENING.
FOR PARDON OF SINS.**

O ALMIGHTY God, I acknowledge and confess those many weaknesses and imperfections, I am guilty of, in my performances of the duties of this day: I have called upon thee for the pardon and forgiveness of all my sins: I have heard thy holy word, but yet find myself a very unprofitable servant: so that, O Lord, though I have done thy work, I have done it so negligently, that I may rather expect the fire of thy anger, than a blessing from thee.

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II. But if thou, O God, shouldst be extreme, to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who can abide it, or stand before thee when thou art angry? Remember that I am but dust and ashes, and the work of thine own hands: Pardon, I beseech thee, and pass by all my sins, negligences, and ignorances; look not upon the weakness of my flesh, but upon the willingness of my spirit, and so cover all my imperfections with the perfect and absolute obedience of thy dear Son, that those sacrifices offered up by me this day, may be by thee accepted, in, and for that sacrifice which Christ Jesus offered upon the cross once for me.

III. And as I earnestly desire that my sacrifices may be pleasing and acceptable to thee, so let thine ordinances be profitable to me. And as thou hast this day sown in my heart the precious seed of thy word, so let neither the fowls

of the air devour it, nor the cares of the world choak it; but let the former and the latter rain of thy blessing come often upon it, that it may bring forth in me the fruits of true repentance and hearty amendment of life. Pardon my manifold sins, by which I have provoked thee this very day.

IV. Be thou unto me a merciful God, in despite of the snares and delusions which sin lays in my way for my destruction; and keep me under the shadow of thy wings, in perpetual peace and safety. Bless me this night, sleeping or waking, give thine angels charge over me, that at whatsoever hour thou callest me I may, like a faithful soldier, stand ready prepared to encounter death, and to follow the Lamb wheresoever he goeth. Grant these things, O blessed Father, for thy Son Jesus Christ his sake, my only Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

**MEDITATIONS FOR MONDAY, OUT OF
THE PSALMS. FOR A HOLY LIFE.**

MY song shall be of mercy and judgment: Unto thee, O Lord, will I sing. Let me have understanding in the way of godliness.

When wilt thou come unto me? I will walk in my house with a perfect heart. I will talk no wicked thing: I hate the sins of unfaithfulness; there shall no such cleave unto me.

A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.

Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I destroy.

Whoso hath also a proud look and a high stomach, I will not suffer him.

There shall no deceitful person dwell in my house, he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.

I shall soon destroy all the un-

godly that are in the land: That I may root out all wicked doers from the city of the Lord.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

A PRAYER FOR MONDAY MORNING.
FOR A HOLY LIFE.

O GOD, most holy and righteous, who shewest mercy unto thousands and hatest nothing thy hands have made: Who fillest me with thy loving kindness every morning, and keepest me in peace and safety in the night-season.

II. I confess, O Lord, that I am altogether vanity, a shadow of death, a dark ~~dungeon~~, a barren and empty ground, where no water is, but deluges of wrath and confusion: But, O Lord, I abhor myself, and repent before thee in dust and ashes; and as sins of infirmities have thrown me down, raise me up again, I be-

seech thee by the gift of penitence, that I may lead a holy life with all humility, truth and justice, godliness and honesty, in this present world.

III. I bless thy holy name, for thy care and protection over me this night; that thou hast safely brought me to the beginning of this day, and delivered me from the shadow of death. O Lord, continue thy wonted goodness towards me this day, and grant that all my prayers, words, works, and actions, may begin and end in thy glory.

IV. Keep me, O Lord, I beseech thee, this day without sin; and so replenish me with thy favor and grace, that my heart may rejoice and delight in thy praises. Deliver me, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue; keep me from the snare of the hunter, and from the noisome and infectious pestilence; from deadly vexation,

mortal sickness, and from sudden death.

V. Protect me in the day of my trouble; give me a contented mind, which may remain unto me a continual feast, in whatsoever changes or chances may befall me in this transitory life. Grant that I may yield up myself to thy good pleasure in all things, and be obedient unto those holy commandments which thou hast appointed for my rule and guide. So that at the last I may find, that in keeping thy holy law there is great reward: Grant this, O heavenly Father, for thy Son's sake, my only Redeemer. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR MONDAY NOON.
FOR FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

O GOD, the searcher of all hearts, and from whom no secrets are hid, but are laid open to thy all-seeing eye; I here acknowledge my

32 *A Prayer for Monday Noon.*

sins unto thee, and mine iniquities which are many in number. I come unto thee, O Lord, who art the fountain of all goodness, and forgivest all those that with hearty repentance come unto thee: Pardon and remit all those sins, which this day I have committed against thy divine Majesty. Purge me with hysop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow: Let the dew of thy favor, and the fire of thy love, blot out all my sins, and purify my soul.

II. Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me: Let me not be for ever separated from the sweet refreshings of thy favor and presence, but give me the comfort of thy help again, and let thy free spirit loose me from the bondage of sin, and establish me in the freedom and liberty of the sons of God; so shall I praise thy name, and evermore sing of thy righte-

A Prayer for Monday Night. 33

ousness in the congregation of thy redeemed ones, now, henceforth, and for ever. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR MONDAY NIGHT.
FOR PRESERVATION.

O LORD, most holy, I praise and magnify thy holy name for preserving me this day both in soul and body. O thou who art *Alpha* and *Omega*, bless and defend me with thy heavenly grace this night. Let my rest be in thee, and grant that neither much sleep overwhelm me, nor Satan invade me: Though my eyes sleep, yet, O Lord, keep my heart waking; lest the subtle tempter overtake me, and I sleep in perpetual silence. Keep me in the arms of thy providence; give sleep to my eyes, and slumber unto my eye lids; compass me about and raise me up to the joyful sight of the next morning light; and after this miserable life is ended,

34 *Meditations for Tuesday.*

grant that in thy light I may see
light for evermore.

**MEDITATIONS FOR TUESDAY. FOR
DEFENCE OF OUR INNOCENCE, AND
AGAINST THE MALICE OF OUR ENE-
MIES.**

O LORD, my God, in thee have
I put my trust; save me from
all them that persecute me, and
deliver me.

Lest he devour my soul like a
lion; and tear it in pieces, while
there is none to help.

O Lord, my God, if I have done
any such thing, or if there be any
wickedness in my hands:

If I have rewarded evil unto him
that dealt friendly with me; yea, I
have delivered him that without
any cause is mine enemy:

Then let mine enemy persecute
my soul, and take me: yea, let him
tread my life down upon the earth,
and lay mine honour in the dust.

Stand up, O Lord, in thy wrath,
and lift up thyself: because of the
indignation of mine enemies.

Arise up for me in the judgment
that thou hast commanded.

And so shall the congregation of
the people come about thee: for
their sakes therefore lift up thyself
again.

The Lord shall judge the people:
Give sentence with me, O Lord,
according to my righteousness, and
according to the innocency that is
in me.

O let the wickedness of the un-
godly come to an end; but guide
thou the just.

For the righteous God trieth the
very heart and reins.

My help cometh of God, which
preserveth them that are true of
heart.

God is a righteous judge, strong
and patient; and God is provoked
every day.

If a man will not turn he will

36 *Prayer for Tuesday Morning.*

whet his sword; he hath bent his bow, and made it ready.

He hath prepared for him the instrument of death, he ordained his arrows against the persecutors.

Behold! he travaileth with mischief: He hath conceived sorrow, and brought forth ungodliness.

He hath graven and digged up a pit, and is fallen himself into the destruction that he made for others.

For his travail shall come upon his own head, and his wickedness shall fall upon his own pate.

I will give thanks unto the Lord according to his righteousness, and will praise the name of the Lord most high.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

A PRAYER FOR TUESDAY MORNING.
FOR PROTECTION FROM OUR ENEMIES.

O ALMIGHTY God, who art a strong rock and defence to all

Prayer for Tuesday Morning. 37

those who trust in thee; deliver me, I beseech thee, from those, who like lions roaring for their prey, seek to devour me: abate their pride, assuage their malice, and confound their devices; save me from the hands of all those who seek to do me evil, and let their wickedness and hellish contrivance come utterly to an end for evermore.

II. I magnify thy holy name for the preservation of me this night. Grant that I may walk this day according to thy heavenly will in all things, not returning evil for good, but on the contrary good for evil. Disperse from me all clouds of envy, hatred, or malice, which seem to hover over me: and though heaviness may endure for a night, yet, O Lord, let the joy and light of thy countenance appear in the morning.

III. Give me grace not to delight in those things which displease thee,

38 *Prayer for Tuesday Noon.*

but evermore to delight in those things which are most pleasing to thee, be they never so disagreeable to my desires. Defend me, O Lord, from all shame and disgraces of this life; mortify all the corrupt affections that are in me, and pardon the innumerable sins which I have committed. Bless, preserve, and keep me this day, by thy power, from sin, shame, and all evil, and so direct me by thy grace, that all my thoughts, words, and works may please thee, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR TUESDAY NOON.
FOR GOD'S GRACE AND FAVOR.

O GOD, most holy, who guidest and governest all those that trust in thee; I beseech thee defend me daily; cherish, comfort, govern, and counsel me in all my enterprizes, so that I may employ

this day, and all the days of my life, according to thy blessed will; setting thee always before my eyes, and aiming at thy glory.

II. Let me earnestly seek and find thee, O my heart's desire, and let me hold thee fast whom my soul loveth; let me enjoy thee, O my spiritual comfort in all my faculties, even in my heart let me possess thee. Be thou for ever present with me in all my undertakings; let thy favor refresh me, and thy grace, which is sufficient for me, support me; that, though I walk through this valley and shadow of death, I may fear no evil while thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

III. Convert and turn the hearts of those which seek to do me evil; and hate me without a cause: Keep me from their anger which is fierce; and from the wrath of them which are cruel; and bring them down in

40 *Prayer for Tuesday Night.*

their high imaginations lest they be too proud. Grant that the remaining part of this day I may walk in thy fear, and at the last may enter into thy glory ; through the merits of Jesus Christ my only Saviour. *Amen.*

PRAYER FOR TUESDAY NIGHT.
A THANKSGIVING FOR GOD'S MERCIES.

I RENDER thee most humble and hearty thanks for thy preservation of me this day, and relieving me according to my several necessities. Thou hast this day past defended me from all danger, given me my daily bread and hourly breath ; continue still, I beseech thee, thy undeserved mercies towards me ; and accept this my evening sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

II. Let not the meanness of my devotion cause thee to turn away thine eyes from me, but according

to thine accustomed goodness, spare thy servant, good Lord, and be not angry with him for ever. Preserve me this night, O thou that preservest all the world; that taking my natural repose, I may, through thy protection and ready help, be defended both now and evermore. *Amen.*

MEDITATIONS FOR WEDNESDAY.

THE heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handy work.

There is neither speech nor language; but their voices are heard among them.

Their sound is gone into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world.

In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun; which cometh forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a giant to run his course.

It goeth from the uttermost part of the heaven, and runneth about unto the end of it again, and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

The law of the Lord is an undefiled law, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, and giveth wisdom unto the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoyce the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, and giveth light unto the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, and endureth for ever; the judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold; yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honey-comb.

Moreover by them is thy servant taught: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Who can tell how oft he offendeth? O cleanse thou me from my secret faults.

Prayer for Wednesday Morning. 43

Keep thy servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the dominion over me: So shall I be undefiled and innocent from the great offence.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart be always acceptable in thy sight,

O Lord, my strength, and my Redeemer.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

A PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY MORNING.
FOR REPENTANCE.

O ETERNAL God, before whom all creatures both in heaven and earth do bow, fear, and tremble; I, a miserable creature, dejected with the weighty burden of my sins, fly unto thee for succour. Plant in my heart the fear of thy name, and in my body the purity and cleanness of charity; and let them abide there for ever. Cleanse me

44 *Prayer for Wednesday Morning.*

from all my secret sins, and preserve me also from presumptuous and great offences. Touch my heart, O God, with true repentance, that thy judgments present and imminent, may be prevented and removed, and the overflowing silver stream and current of thy mercies, be never yet at end.

II. Be gracious to my relations in the flesh, my friends in the Spirit, with all those to whom I am any ways bounden, or desire to be commended unto thee in my prayers and supplications. Expel, O Lord, and cast out of my heart all evil imaginations, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness, and whatsoever is contrary to thy holy commandments.

III. I praise thy holy name for thy preservation of me the night past, for the gifts and graces of thy blessed Spirit; as faith in thy promises, hope of a better life when

this is ended, and strength against all the temptations of Satan; all which have proceeded from the fountain of thy mercy. As thou hast of thy providence kept me ever since I was born, and in mercy preserved me in the beginning of this week, so to my comfort grant me the continuance of the same, through Jesus Christ my only Redeemer and Advocate. *Amen.*

**A PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY NOON:
FOR GOD'S PARTICULAR CARE OF US.**

O ALMIGHTY God, I cry unto thee for mercy, by reason my sins cry against me for justice; all the day long will I lift up my heart unto thee: Shut not thine ear, O Lord, but hear my complaint, and that right soon. Let me in all things see that I am upheld by thee: Let me perceive it is thy work, by the help of my body and peace of my conscience, in the gift

46 *Prayer for Wednesday Noon.*

of my mind, the credit of my name,
and the work of my calling.

II. But, alas! can there be greater mercies, O Lord, than thou hast already expressed towards me! for whilst I have enjoyed all thy mercies, others have lived in penury and want, in ignorance, prophane-ness, and without thee in the world.

III. What can I render unto the Lord for all his mercies towards me? Let me not pledge *Joseph's* butler in his cup of oblivion, but *David* rather in his cup of salvation; and if my single heart be too barren of thankfulness, let me borrow a *Magnificat*, O my soul, to magnify thee, O Lord, and let my spirit rejoice in thee, O God, my Saviour. What shall I say unto thee, O thou Redeemer of all mankind? I will praise thy holy name. For evermore inspire me with thy spirit, convert me from evil, confirm

me in all goodness, and bring me at last unto thy heavenly kingdom. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT.
FOR DELIVERANCE FROM SIN.

MOST merciful God, I beseech thee to open the eyes of my understanding, that I may come to a particular knowledge of my secret sins, especially those I am most inclined to. Soften my hard and flinty heart, that I may sigh and groan under the weight of my most pressing sins: and acknowledge them a burden too heavy for me to bear.

II. Stir up in me all dull and dead affections, that I may hunger and thirst after thee, the well-spring of life. Forgive me all my misdemeanors of the day past; make me to remember that sin is filthy and loathsome, even the greatest pleasure and act thereof; teach me to keep

48 *Meditations for Thursday.*

a continual watch over all my inward and outward man, whereby I may be afraid to commit the least sin, so that I may walk according to thy holy will in all things.

III. Give me this night sweet and comfortable rest, and fit me, O Lord, for the duties and service of the next day; Turn from me, O Lord, those judgments which my sins have justly deserved, and renew those hopes which thou hast been pleased to frustrate; crown me with those blessings which thou hast promised to all those that fear thy name; so that at the last I may attain everlasting happiness, and live with thee in perpetual peace and safety for evermore. *Amen.*

MEDITATIONS FOR THURSDAY.

O SING unto the Lord a new song, for he hath done marvellous things. With his own right

hand, and with his holy arm hath he gotten himself the victory.

The Lord declared his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

He hath remembered his mercy and truth towards the house of Israel; and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.

Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands; sing, rejoice, and give thanks.

Praise the Lord upon the harp; sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.

With trumpets also, and shawms, O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King.

Let the sea make a noise and all that therein is; the round world, and they that dwell therein.

Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; for he is come to judge the earth.

With righteousness shall he judge

50 *Prayer for Thursday Morning.*

the world, and the people with equity.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

A PRAYER FOR THURSDAY MORNING.

A SACRIFICE OF PRAISE.

O MOST glorious and powerful Lord God, who with thy holy arm hast gotten for me victory over sin, hell, and the grave ; I praise thee, O Lord, from the very bottom of my heart, for all thy love and boundless mercy and kindness, for thy holy incarnation, passion, resurrection, and ascension into heaven, and sitting at the right hand of God the Father ; where thou makest intercession for me.

II. In thy merits I beseech thee to look upon me : Thou art that living sacrifice that was offered up for me, and in thy name do I offer up unto thee this my morning sa-

crifice; evermore praising thee, and magnifying thy holy name. Mortify in me all fleshly corruptious, quicken in me the inner man: By the power of thy death, let me die unto sin, and by the power of thy resurrection, let me rise to righteousness and newness of life. Let the one as an antidote, expel the poison of ungodliness, and the other as a restorative, excite me to holiness.

III. Enlighten my understanding, that I may know thy will; reform my life, that I may do all things aright, and discern good and evil. Teach me to fear thy name, to neglect all things in regard of thee, to be grieved at my own and others sins; but rejoice exceedingly whensoever I can please thee. Let me this day labour, that whatsoever I do may be pleasing in thy sight; as I am thy servant let me depend upon thee, and as I am a christian,

52 *Prayer for Thursday Noon.*

walk worthy of my vocation and calling.

IV. Be gracious and favourable unto the whole church, and bless every particular member thereof; be good to the light of our eyes, the breath of our nostrils, thy *David*, our gracious king *George*; bless thine own tribe, the tribe of *Levi*; the nobility, gentry, and commonality; and let thy peace rest upon those that pray for our peace, where-soever dispersed over the face of the whole earth. Lord, keep me the remaining part of this day in thy truth, and give me peace and true faith in thee now and for evermore. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR THURSDAY NOON.
FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON OUR EN-
DEAVOURS.

O ETERNAL and most gracious God, who though thou art ever infinite, yet enlargest thyself by the

number of our prayers, and takest our often petitions to thee, to be an addition to thy glory, so great is thy humility towards poor mortals ; I most humbly beseech thee, O Lord, that thine eyes may continually attend upon me, and thy grace daily defend me from all danger ; succour, cherish, and comfort me in my necessities, and govern all my counsels, studies, and labours, so that I may spend this day according to thy blessed will, and the discharge of my own conscience ; that warily avoiding all things that may displease thee, and setting always before my eyes thy fear, I may by the assistance of thy heavenly grace, and the guidance of thy holy Spirit, work that which is acceptable and pleasing unto thee, unto thy praise and glory, for ever. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR THURSDAY NIGHT.
FOR DELIVERANCE FROM SUDDEN
DEATH.

O LORD most holy, the giver of all good things, and the protector of all those that love thee, I give thee most humble and hearty thanks not only for thy preservation of me this day, but all my life, O Lord forgive me the offences I have committed against thee this day; blot out all my sins with the blood of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and I beseech thee for his sake remember them no more.

II. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to extend thine accustomed goodness and protection over me this night, that I may peaceably and quietly take my rest, which thou hast appointed for the refreshing of my wearied and weak body: and I beseech thee to defend me that no-

thing hurt me; keep me also good Lord, from sudden and unprovided death, and preserve me by the guard of thy holy angels, that I may enjoy my rest this night in thee until the morning, and then give myself to the fulfilling of my duty, the discharge of my employment, and the working of thy will unto my life's end.

III. In whose name I refer myself wholly to thy almighty protection, even in the name of thy blessed Son Jesus Christ the righteous; beseeching thee, that when this life shall have an end, and my last sleep being come, I may take my everlasting rest with thee in thy heavenly kingdom; for the which kingdom I do heartily beseech thee of thine inestimable goodness to fit and prepare me, and all other thy servants, to the attainment of the same, for the glory of thy holy name, and the everlasting comfort of our own souls. *Amen.*

MEDITATIONS FOR FRIDAY

THE Lord, even the most mighty God, hath spoken and called the world from the rising up of the sun unto the going down thereof.

Out of Sion hath God appeared in perfect beauty.

Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence; there shall go before him a consuming fire; and a mighty tempest shall be stirred up round about him.

He shall call the heaven from above, and the earth that he may judge his people.

Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me with sacrifice.

And the heavens shall declare his righteousness; for God is judge himself.

Hear, O my people, and I will speak; I myself will testify against thee, O Israel; for I am God, even

thy God.

I will not reprove thee because of thy sacrifice, or for thy burnt offerings ; because they were not always before me.

I will take no bullocks out of thine house, nor he-goat out of thy fold. For all the beasts of the forest are mine, and so are the cattle upon a thousand hills.

I know all the fowls upon the mountains ; and the wild beasts of the field are in my sight.

If I be hungry I will not tell thee ; for the whole world is mine, and all that is therein.

Thinkest thou that I will eat bull's flesh, and drink the blood of goats ?

Offer unto God thanksgiving ; and pay thy vows unto the most highest.

And call upon me in the time of trouble ! so will I hear thee, and thou shalt praise me.

But unto the ungodly, said God,

E

Why dost thou preach my laws,
and takest my covenant in thy
mouth?

Whereas thou hatest to be re-
formed, and hast cast my words
behind thee.

When thou sawest a thief, thou
consentedst unto him; and hast
been partaker with the adulterers.

Thou hast let thy mouth speak
wickedness, and with thy tongue
thou hast set forth deceit.

Thou sittest and speakest against
thy brother; yea, and hast slander-
ed thine own mother's son.

'These things hast thou done,
and I held my tongue: and thou
thoughtest wickedly, that I am
even such a one as thyself; but I
will reprove thee, and set before
thee the things that thou hast done.

O consider this ye that forget
God, lest I pluck you away, and
there be none to deliver you:

Whoso offereth me thanks and
praise, he honoreth me: and to

him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

A PRAYER FOR FRIDAY MORNING.

A CONFESSION OF SINS.

O MOST mighty and merciful God, I presume to present myself this morning before thy Divine Majesty, to offer up unto thee this my early sacrifice ; but in the performance of it I make known my unworthiness, and disclose my weakness, and exceedingly discover my imperfections and wretchedness.

II. For, alas ! I draw near unto thee with my lips, but my heart is far from thee ; I call upon thee with my tongue, but my soul, at the same time commits wickedness against thee : My righteousness comes short of the Scribes and

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Pharisees, and is but as filthy rags :
My holiness but as the morning dew ;
yea, all my actions of devotion (if
weighed in the balance) are but a-
bomination in thy sight : From the
sole of the foot unto the crown of
the head, I am altogether polluted
and unclean ; yea, nothing to be
found in me but wounds and pu-
trified sores, imprinted and stamp-
ed into my soul and flesh by the
custom of my sin.

III. My eyes are full of vanity,
my ears full of iniquity, my hands
of impurity, my will perverse to
that which is good, my remem-
brance affable and pleasing to that
which is evil, my understanding is
darkened, my conscience seared,
my head full of mischief, my feet
swift to shed blood ; destruction
and wickedness are in all my ways,
and the ways of peace have I not
known.

IV. Since then, O Lord, that my

sins are so great and grievous against thy law and against thy gospel, if thou shouldst be so extreme as to mark against me what I have done amiss, who is able to abide it! If thou shouldst call me suddenly to a strict account, how should I shew my face! If I deny what is laid to my charge, my conscience will accuse me; if I forswear, the dumb and senseless creatures will bear witness against me.

V. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is no friend in the earth beneath, which I have in comparison of thee; no other mediator among men and angels, but even thine only begotten Son Christ Jesus, in whom only thou art well pleased; by the virtue of whose death and passion, and the remembrance of whose precious blood, which trickled down from his side, wash me from my sins; and be-

sprinkle my polluted heart from an evil conscience.

VI. And I beseech thee, O Lord, not only to wash away my sins with the blood of thine immaculate Lamb, but also to purge my heart, by thy holy Spirit, from the dross of my natural corruption, that I may feel thy spirit more and more killing sin in the power and practice thereof; so that I may with more freedom of mind and liberty of will, serve thee, the ever living God, in righteousness and holiness this day and all the days of my life, for evermore. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR FRIDAY NOON.
FOR GOD'S DIRECTION.

O LORD most holy, I beseech thee to direct all my wanderings, and direct my wild and worldly thoughts unto thee the God of my salvation. Learn me that di-

vine art of living in thy fear, to labour in thy service, and evermore run swiftly in the ways of thy commandments. Direct my thoughts, words, and works; preserve and bless me in my going out and coming in; and grant that whatsoever my heart shall think, my tongue shall utter, or my hands exercise this day, may tend to the glory of thy holy name, the good of others, and the comfort of my own conscience.

II. End these sinful days, O blessed Redeemer, and hasten thy coming, and give me grace to stand ready prepared to meet thee, who art the sweet bridegroom of my soul, that at thy coming, whether it be in the hour of death, or at the day judgment, I may joyfully pronounce these blessed words of *Come Lord Jesus, come quickly.*

III. Deliver me, O Lord, from

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all those heavy judgments which hang over my head as due unto me for my transgressions; separate them as far from thy presence in distance, as the east is from the west; bury them all in thy grave, that they neither rise to shame me in this life, nor condemn me in the world to come: To whom be ascribed for thy infinite mercy, all honour, praise, and glory, from this time forth and for evermore. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR FRIDAY NIGHT.
AGAINST CARNAL SECURITY.

O MERCIFUL Father, I here prostrate myself in all humility and reverence of heart and mind, beseeching thee to guide and protect me this night with thy blessed Spirit, and though my sinful flesh shall slumber and sleep, yet grant that my soul may continually be vigilant.

II. Let not the enemy come upon me unawares, and find me slumbering or sleeping, as rocked in the cradle of carnal security; lest I being unarmed and destitute of thy favour and help, he enter into the house of my sinful body, and there take possession of my leprous soul; and endanger both to be thrown into the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone.

III. Make me to consider that my bed is but a pattern of the grave, and that when I lay myself down in it, I cannot rise up unless thy heavenly providence enables me. Teach me to acknowledge that sleep is the very figure and image of death, to whose stroke, at thy appointed time, I must submit and resign myself; endue me with love and charity to all men; let my lamp, O Lord, be filled with fresh oil, that whensoever thy messenger, death, approaches, and

knocks at the gate of this mortal body, I may at this summons, in the day of the resurrection of the dead, be ready to attend on thee with my lamp burning.

IV. Let me be ever mindful of the great and last day, wherein I must render an account of every idle thought, word, and work; and grant I may be prepared with faith and repentance as with a wedding-garment, against the time that thou, O Lord, shalt call for me out of this sinful world. In the meantime let me fly from sin as from a serpent, and from unrighteousness as from a cockatrice, and above all things seek thy glory; and when this mortal life is ended, I may be made partaker of immortality, and life eternal, in thy most blessed and glorious kingdom.

V. Let thy mercy and loving kindness follow me, O Lord, all

the days of my life, that I may dwell in thy house, and evermore praise thy holy name; grant that I may in the acknowledgement of thy greatness, confess my own unworthiness; and visit me, O Lord, by driving from me all the assaults of my enemies, both ghostly and bodily. •

VI. Let thy holy angel be with me, to keep me this night, and evermore, fit me for the duty of the next day, if it be thy heavenly will to spare me this night: This, O Lord, I beg at thy merciful hands, through the merits and mediation of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, and the Holy Ghost, now and for ever. *Amen.*

MEDITATIONS FOR SATURDAY.

I WILL cry unto God with my voice; even unto God will I cry with my voice; and he shall heark-

en unto me.

In the time of my trouble I sought the Lord : My sores ran and ceased not ; in the night-season my soul refused comfort.

When I am in heaviness, I will think upon God ; when my heart is vexed I will complain.

Thou holdest mine eyes waking ; I am so feeble that I cannot speak.

I have considered the days of old, and the years that are past.

I call to remembrance my song ; and in the night I commune with mine own heart, and search out my spirits.

Will the Lord absent himself for ever ? and will he be no more entreated ?

Is his mercy clean gone for ever ? and his promise come utterly to an end for evermore ?

Hath God forgotten to be gracious ? and will he shut up his loving kindness in displeasure ?

And I said it is my own infirmi-

ty; but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most highest.

I will remember the works of the Lord, and call to mind the wonders of old time.

I will think also of all thy works; and my talkings shall be of thy doings.

Thy way, O God, is holy; who is so great a God as our God?

Thou art the God that doest wonders, and hast declared thy power amongst the people.

Thou hast mightily delivered thy people; even the sons of Jacob and Joseph.

The waters saw thee, O God; the waters saw thee, and were afraid; the depths were troubled.

The clouds also poured out water, the air thundered, and thine arrows went abroad.

The voice of thy thunder was heard round about; the lightning shone upon the ground, the earth

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was moved and shook withal.

Thy way is in the sea, and thy paths in the great waters ; and thy footsteps are not known.

Thou leadeſt thy people like ſheep, by the hand of Moſes and Aaron.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

A PRAYER FOR SATURDAY MORNING.
FOR GOD'S PROVIDENCE.

MOST gracious God, I yield thee humble and hearty thanks for preſerving and defending me the night paſt from all thoſe perils and dangers which duſt and aſhes are ſubject to fall into. Had not I been preſerved by thy almighty providence, I had long ſince, both body and ſoul, been carried into everlaſting perdition ; but thou art a God infinite in mercy, and whoſe compaſſions fail not towards poor ſinners, by ſupport-

ing them in their several necessities.

II. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to forgive whatsoever I have committed against thy Divine Majesty this night, either sleeping or waking ; or at any other time secretly or openly : Grant unto me unfeigned repentance, and newness of life ; open unto me, O Lord, that ever-streaming fountain which thou hast opened for sinners, even the blood of thy dear Son Christ Jesus ; and which thou hast promised under the *New Testament*, to open to the penitent of the house of *David*.

III. Give unto me thy holy Spirit, which thou hast promised to give (to the world's end) unto all thine elect people ; and let the same, thine only Comforter, purge my heart, heal my corruptions, sanctify my nature, and consecrate my soul and body, that they may become lively temples to serve thee

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in righteousness and holiness all the days of my life. Give me, I earnestly beseech thee, a supply of all those graces I stand in need of, with an increase of all those good gifts thou hast endued me with.

IV. As thou hast now awakened my body from sleep, so I beseech thee rouse my soul from the sleep of sin and carnal security; give me grace, as a child of light, to walk in all holy obedience before thee this day, and grant me to endeavour to keep faith and a good conscience towards thee, and towards all men.

V. To this end I recommend myself, with all my ways, thoughts, words, and actions, (together with all that belongs to me) unto thy divine protection, praying thee to keep both them and me from all evil; and to give a blessing to all my undertakings this day and for evermore.

**A PRAYER FOR SATURDAY NOON.
FOR TRANQUILITY OF SPIRIT.**

O MOST merciful God, and loving Father, who beholdest all the dwellers upon earth ; and none can live without thy arm of providence supports him. No sooner do I enter upon the affairs of this world, but I am surrounded about with a cloud of miseries; the flesh provokes me to lust, the world allures me to pleasures, and the devil tempts me to commit all manner of wickedness.

II. Fears of enemies abroad affright me, wrongs of ill neighbours oppress me, cares for the things of this life consume me ; and even all the day long something or other doth afflict and torment me. Adversity on the one hand frets me, and prosperity on the other hand flatters

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me. Over my head heaven's vengeance, due to my sins, is ready to fall heavy upon me; and under my feet hell gapes ready to devour me.

III. Amidst these many toils and perplexities, where to find rest I know not; or to fly for succour, but to thee, O Lord, most holy and mighty: direct me and guide me in these difficulties; protect me from these perils and dangers; settle me in a course of godliness; and let me walk soberly and circumspectly, as becometh a good christian, spending and ending that small remnant of days, which thou hast allotted me in this world, in thy fear and service.

IV. Teach me so to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto true wisdom. Make me wise unto salvation, simple to that which is evil, and prone to that

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which is good. Enable me unto good works, and grant that I may be charitable, peaceable, and conscionable towards all men, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR SATURDAY NIGHT.
FOR REMISSION OF SINS.

O ALMIGHTY God, I humbly beseech thee to bury all my sins and transgressions, which I have committed from my infancy, unto this present, against thy divine Majesty. Be thou, O Lord, my light in darkness, then shall my light shine clear as the day.

II. O God, the Father of heaven, have mercy upon me, and bless me; O God, the Son, Redeemer of all the world, preserve and keep me; O holy and blessed Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son, deliver me this night from all sin and evil; O

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holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
three persons and one God, direct,
guide, and sanctify me

III. Be thou my protector and defender amidst all dangers, that when I lay me down to rest, I may fear no evil. Grant me, Lord, at my last hour, thy spiritual illumination ; and when my strength faileth, and the light of my eyes is departed from me, mine ears wax deaf, and my mouth dumb, and all my senses have forsaken me ; then infuse some sense into me of eternal life, that I may taste and relish in this mortal body, the beginning of thy everlasting comfort ; that at my departure out of this world, I may, by the eye of faith, behold thy divine presence.

IV. Open my eyes more and more, that I may discern the wondrous works of thy law ; and open thou, O Lord, likewise my lips,

that my mouth and tongue may shew forth thy praise, and extol thy great and glorious name. Prepare my heart, O Lord, I beseech thee, for thy divine service, this next day following. It is thy holy day ; O fit me for the sanctifying of the same, that I may not spend it on my lusts, and the pleasures of sin, but dedicate it wholly to thy honour and glory.

V. Let my chief delight be, to cease from the works of sin as well as from my worldly employment, that I may, through thy blessing, feel in my heart the beginning of that eternal sabbath, which is joy unspeakable, and full of glory. Govern, O Lord, my heart in thy fear, and guide and steer all the whole course of my life with thy favour : fit and prepare me against the hour of death and day of dissolution, that if thou shouldest this night make my bed in the

grave of silence, I may live and die unto thee, who livest for ever; to whom be ascribed all power and glory, adoration and subjection, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

AN HUMBLE CONFESSION OF SINS
BEFORE THE MOST HOLY SACRAMENT
OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

O MOST holy Lord God, who according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, dost put away the sins of all those that truly repent, and rememberest them no more: Open, O Lord, I beseech thee, the eyes of thy boundless mercy and fatherly compassion upon me, the most unworthy of all thy servants: from the very bottom of my heart I earnestly implore thy pardon and forgiveness for all my past sins and offences: the number of them exceed the ordinary expectation of thy mercy, and are so heinous

that they can plead no excuse! The sad account being cast up, is no less than the breach of all thy holy commandments, both in thought, word, and deed; thy mercy and goodness, which should have led me to repentance, I have abused: I have slighted thy judgments, and thy punishments have I not feared; I have utterly neglected the means of my own salvation, and by my wickedness have most grievously provoked thy wrath and indignation against me; my life, which should have been wholly devoted to thy service, I have mispent in the desires and sinful lusts of the flesh! My ways have been evil, (and that continually; the secret cogitations of my heart most wicked; and so detestable hath the whole course of my life been, that my heart is vexed within me) and my soul trembleth to look up to heaven for mercy, for fear of thy displeasure. If therefore thou,

O Lord, shouldest be extreme to mark what I have done amiss, and take vengeance for my sins, I should be as chaff before the face of the wind, and in justice might be swept away into the place of everlasting torment.

II. But, O Lord, from the ever-flowing fountain there is mercy that thou mayest be feared ; thou art a God of all comfort and consolation ; a merciful, loving, and gracious Father, ready and willing to hear all penitent sinners, that with hearty repentance and true faith come unto thee ; I come unto thee, therefore, in the name of Jesus Christ the righteous, thy beloved Son, and my blessed Redeemer ; I humbly prostrate myself before the throne of thy mercy-seat, provided with no other hope but what proceeds from the greatness of thy clemency ; for his sake only have mercy upon me.

III. In all humility of spirit, and with heavy contrition, I submit my soul and body to thy goodness, beseeching thee not to let my sins be as a cloud to intercept between my prayers and thy pity, thy goodness and my necessities; blot all my transgressions out of thy remembrance; the sins of my youth, or sins of my age; sins of my body, or sins of my soul; the sins that I know, and the sins that I know not; sins of pride, envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness (*Here mention thy particular sins;*) from all which, good Lord, deliver me; and grant me a full and free pardon, perfect remission and absolution for the same.

IV. As one deep calleth upon another, with the prophet *David*, out of the depth of my misery, I cry unto thee for the depth of thy mercy: O Lord, hear my petitions, and hold not thy peace at

my tears: Consider the contrition of my heart, and the sorrow of my soul; and by the merits of his most precious blood that was so plentifully shed upon the cross for all penitent sinners and true believers, wash away the multitude of my transgressions, that my soul, by thy mercy, being cleansed from the guilt of sin, I may be found a worthy partaker and receiver of thy holy and divine mystery.

V. And now, O holy Lord, that I am about to receive the blessed sacrament of the body and blood of Jesus Christ, how shall I, that am so great a sinner, dust and ashes, dare to presume to come unto thy sanctuary, or to approach thy holy table! Thou in whose sight the very heavens are not clear, and the pillars of the earth shake at thy presence. What then shall become of me, wretched, and miserable that I am!

But, thou hast left us a command in thy holy Gospel, *Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* Matt. xi. 28.

VI. Upon which command, I come, O Lord, unto thee, at this time, in a confident assurance of thy promise in Christ Jesus, thou wilt have mercy upon me, ease and refresh my soul, that is wearied with the burthen of my sins; wash me and cleanse me thoroughly from all my wickedness, and renew a right spirit within me. Direct me in this great mystery with a reverend and awful dread of thy majesty, that all the faculties of my soul and body may rightly apprehend, and joyfully receive this eternal food, this bread of life: And grant me thy heavenly grace that I may obtain the virtue, fruit, and benefit of my Saviour's death and passion, with

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a full remission of all my sins,
and everlasting salvation, through
Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER BEFORE THE SACRAMENT.

O MOST gracious God, I humbly beseech thee, help thy Servant, whom of thy great mercy thou hast created out of nothing; repair the ruins of my soul, and enlarge the frame of my understanding; cleanse it from all filthy corruptions, and supply it with all heavenly graces, that it may be both conveniently fit and furnished to receive thee, who art a God of all purity. O make an entry into my heart, and take thy residence there for ever; possess that which is thine own both of creation and redemption, and merits of that bitter death and passion, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A THANKSGIVING AFTER RECEIVING
OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

O ALMIGHTY God, I praise thee for my creation, redemption and preservation; and by whose grace and mercy I hope to be glorified; more especially for feeding me this day with the precious body and blood of Jesus Christ. I will therefore offer unto thee the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and always praise thy holy name, beseeching thee to pour upon my heart the sweet streams of thy mercy: comfort my life, confirm my faith, and let thy grace evermore guide me, that I may, with a strong assurance of thine infallible truth and promised mercy, vanquish and subdue whatsoever rebelleth against thy blessed will.

II. Keep holy my soul and bo-

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dy, and suffer them not to be defiled through sin; but that my full delight and joy may be in thee, and walking before thee in sincerity of heart and godly conversation, I may here on earth glorify thy name, and after this life, with all thy faithful flock, possess that everlasting inheritance, which thy Son Christ Jesus hath purchased with his most precious blood. To whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

JOHN v. 14.

Behold thou art made whole, sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

JUDE xxv.

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.

A MORNING PRAYER FOR A PRIVATE
PERSON.

O ETERNAL God, and most merciful Father, I thine unworthy servant, do in all humility prostrate myself before thy divine Majesty acknowledging my own vileness, natural corruptions, and abominable sins, which from time to time have been committed against thee. I am unworthy, O Lord, to appear in thy holy temple, or approach the remotest limits of the place where thine honour dwelleth.

II. But I beseech thee, for the sake of thy dearly beloved Son, accept of this my morning sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for thy manifold mercies, extended towards me this night past, and heretofore, till this moment: for my rest, food, raiment, health,

peace, and liberty, with the hopes of a better life when this is ended. Continue thy all-supplying mercies unto me this day. Govern me with thy fear, and compass me about with thy favour: set all my sins to that account which thy Son Jesus Christ, my only Saviour, hath made up for them upon the cross, and never lay any of them to my charge, but freely forgive and forget them all.

III. Prosper, O Lord, all that I shall take in hand this day; let my directions proceed from thy holy will, and the success from thy merciful hand. Give me a competency for maintenance in this mortal life, that I may with quietness of mind, and thankfulness of heart, pass my time in this vale of misery, in doing good to all men, according to my ability, without disparagement to myself, or harm to others.

IV. Grant these things, O heavenly Father, and whatever else thou seest most necessary for me and all other thy servants in the world, for the good of our souls and bodies ; guide and conduct me in the doing and performing diligently those things that thou hast required of me ; and that the end of all my labours may tend to the praise of thy holy name, and the benefit of my poor brethren. Grant this, good Lord, I humbly beseech thee, for Jesus Christ his sake. *Amen.*

AN EVENING PRAYER FOR A PRIVATE PERSON.

O ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, I do confess I am unworthy of the least of all thy mercies ; yet, being bound in duty for thy preservation of me the day past, and all the time of my whole life, I offer up unto thee praise

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and thanksgiving for my election, creation, redemption, vocation, and sanctification, with all other gifts and graces appertaining to this life, or that which is to come.

II. O thou that sittest above the cherubims, my tongue, and lips shall praise and glorify thee, for preserving me, by thy providence, the day past, from so many miseries and casualties, which I might justly have fallen into, hadst thou entered into judgment with me. But thou art a God full of mercy and compassion, and passest by offences, to win me the more by thy patience and long-suffering : make me truly thankful for thy mercies ; ready and willing to make a good improvement of thy most gracious forbearance ; and careful to obey thy will with conscience, diligence, and constancy.

III. Strengthen me from above with thy mighty hand, to walk in every good way without fearfulness, and to bring forth the fruits of a true and lively faith in my life and conversation, all the days of my sojourning here. Arm me with thy grace and holy spirit against the corruptions and vanities of the world, the wiles and temptations of the devil, and the allurements of the flesh; and so settle and frame my mind to the continual exercise of devout prayer, hearing of thy sacred word, and watching for thy coming, both in public and private.

IV. Keep me, O Lord, this night from all evils which may happen, either to my body or my soul: extend thy goodness towards all those that have any dependence upon me; give me sweet and comfortable rest, that when I shall awake, all my thoughts

and meditations may be on thee and thy law. Bless me, O Lord, all the nights and days of my life, and at the end thereof send me a blessed departure, and afterwards a joyful resurrection both of soul and body, unto life eternal; grant these things, O heavenly Father, for thy Son Jesus Christ's sake, my only Saviour. *Amen.*

A MORNING PRAYER FOR A PRIVATE FAMILY.

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, thou hast promised that where two or three are gathered together in thy name, thou wilt be in the midst of them; we sinful creatures, dust and ashes, here in all humility do prostrate our bodies and souls before thee as living monuments of thy mercy. We are unworthy of the least of thy mercies,

yet hast thou from time to time made us partakers of many, for which we praise and magnify thy holy name, beseeching thee to give us understanding hearts, to be sensible of our evils, with direction and assistance from thy holy Spirit to avoid the same.

II. And as thou hast, O Lord, kept us this night, in the time of darkness and dangers, so we beseech thee to preserve us this day, that the sun of righteousness may rule in our hearts, and all the darkness that lurked in them may be scattered to the comfort of our own souls in the day of our Lord Jesus. Endue us with those gifts and graces thou seest to be most needful for us, and grant that with sincere hearts and pure consciences we may wholly employ them in thy service, to thy honour and glory.

III. Continue to us, we earnestly beseech thee, thy blessing of health, peace, and maintenance, so far as thou seest them convenient for us ; chase away from us all rancour and malice, covetousness, uncharitableness, and unkindness, and whatsoever is contrary to thy law ; take from us ignorance and negligence, and prevent all those things that thou knowest may hinder us in our christian calling or employment. Increase our faith, patience, and obedience, and let thy blessings be upon this whole family ; guide us in thy truth, protect us in our ways, and all those whom thou hast made dear unto us, whether they be present or absent.

IV. Give grace, by thy chastisements, to fear thee more carefully, and to grieve for our sins more heartily ; let our minds be set upon thee, and give us such

hearts as we may learn something of every thing, and make a spiritual use of all our earthly affairs here, till we come to dwell with thee in the kingdom of glory.

V. Bless, O Lord, the universal church with truth, peace, and unity, soundness of doctrine, and holy discipline ; preserve our gracious sovereign and all the royal family ; bless his majesty's most honourable privy-council, and all others in authority, with necessary graces

VI. Bless all schools of learning and good education, especially the two universities of this land : bless this city and place wherein we live ; remove the punishment due for the sins thereof, and give them a double portion of thy grace, to repent in time, before the destroyer enters amongst them.

VII. Bless all our friends, relations, or others, for whom thou hast appointed us to make prayers and supplications; strengthen them that lie upon their beds of sickness, send them the comfort and help of thy spirit that lie in anguish of conscience for remorse of sin; and convert all those that go astray from thy commandments; teach us by their examples to view our own weakness, and to walk more circumspectly for the time to come.

VIII. Bless this family with grace and peace, that all of them, from the highest to the lowest, may know their several duties, and may rightly and duly practise the same in thy fear, and unto thy glory, through Jesus Christ our only Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

**AN EVENING PRAYER FOR A PRIVATE
FAMILY.**

O **ETERNAL** God, the Father of mercies, and great Creator of heaven and earth, we render thee humble and hearty thanks for thy merciful preservation of us this day, and all the whole course of our lives; that thou hast brought us safe through so many dangers and difficulties we might justly have fallen into, had not thy arm of providence been stretched out to support us.

II. Morning and evening thou takest care of us, and heapest upon us many blessings and benefits, both spiritual and temporal; yet we neither fear thee nor serve thee as we ought to do; but thou art a God slow to anger, and of great pity, and art ready to forgive our manifold sins, which we

from time to time have committed against thee.

III. Good Lord, we beseech thee to keep us evermore from day to day, as thou hast done, and make us constant in the profession of thy holy name, and the practice of thy law, that neither the malice of man, nor subtilty of Satan be able to make us turn away from thee. Lord turn thy face from our sins, even from those sins wherein we have so much delighted ; shake from us those hearts of stone, and give us hearts of flesh, and wash and cleanse our polluted souls in the blood of the Lord Jesus.

IV. Forgive us all that is past, and grant us the assurance of that forgiveness, sealed up by thy holy Spirit in our conscience : O ! kindle thy love more and more in our hearts, that we may never depart

from thee, but attain unto a true thankfulness for thy benefits, and a most unfeigned and earnest repentance for all our sins and transgressions.

V. Suffer us not to close our eyes till our souls have reckoned and made even for all the offences, which not only this day, but all the former minutes of our lives, we have committed against thy divine Majesty: Give thine angels charge over us, that at what hour soever thou callest us out of this vale of tears, where we do but travail and toil all the day long, we may not be found to be idle loiterers in thy harvest, but good and acceptable servants, having oil in our lamps, and on us the robe of righteousness, and wedding-garment of regeneration; that we may be able to encounter Death, the king of terrors, to meet our blessed Lord in the

clouds, when he cometh to judgment, and to follow the Lamb wheresoever he goeth.

VI. Expel and remove far away from us all wicked spirits, and graciously protect us from our persecutors, which lay snares to subdue us ; do thou, O God, assist us, that we may peaceably sleep and rest in thee : hide us in thy tabernacle, from the strife of all men, and keep us that we may fear no evil. O thou that neither slumberest nor sleepest, let thy rod and staff evermore comfort and defend us.

VII. Let thy mighty hand and stretched-out arm, O Lord, be still our defence ; thy mercy and loving kindness in thy beloved Son, our salvation ; thy true and holy word our instruction ; thy grace and holy Spirit our comfort and consolation : let thy mercy,

O God, prevent and follow us all the days of our lives, that we may dwell in thy house of defence, in length of days praising thee evermore,

VIII. Let thy blessings be upon all of us within this household ; guide us in our ways, and lead us unto thy truth. Bless our parents, kindred, and friends, where-soever dispersed, and howsoever linked unto us : be a merciful judge unto us, and continually protect us from the snares of Satan the old serpent, and finally conduct us into the society of angels and of all saints, in thy holy paradise : to whom be ascribed, as is most due to thee, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one true, gracious, and everlasting God, all honour, power, and glory, might, majesty, and dominion, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

MEDITATIONS FOR THE SICK.

O LORD rebuke me not in
thine indignation, neither
chasten me in thy heavy displea-
sure

Have mercy upon me, O Lord,
for I am weak ; O Lord, heal me,
for my bones are vexed.

My soul is also sore troubled ;
but Lord, how long wilt thou
punish me ?

Turn thee, O Lord, and deliver
my soul ; O save me for thy mer-
cies sake.

For in death no man remem-
bereth thee, and who will give
thee thanks in the pit ?

I am weary of my groaning,
every night wash I my bed, and
water my couch with my tears.

My beauty is gone for very
trouble, and worn away because
of mine enemies.

Away from me all ye that work

vanity ; for the Lord hath heard the voice of my weeping.

The Lord hath heard my petition ; the Lord will receive my prayer.

Hearken unto my voice, O Lord, when I cry unto thee ; have mercy upon me and hear me.

O hide not then thy face from me, nor cast thy servant away in displeasure.

Thou hast been my succour, leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

What profit is there in my blood when I go down to the pit.

Shall the dust give thanks unto thee ? or shall it declare thy truth.

Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me : Lord, be thou my helper.

Shew thy servant the help of thy countenance ; and save me for thy mercies sake.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

A PRAYER IN TIME OF SICKNESS.

O ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, in whose hand consists the life of all mankind, and who correctest every son whom thou receivest; mercifully, I humbly beseech thee, hear my voice, and despise not the prayer I make now unto thee, in the time of trouble. In the vexations of my spirit, and in the very anguish of my soul, I cry unto thee for mercy.

II. O thou that hast created and made me of nothing, and hast redeemed me from the slavery of sin, death, and hell, by the most precious blood of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, which was spilt upon the cross for my sins, have mercy upon me: bow down thy all-hearing ear unto my complaint, and cast me not away in

in thy fierce anger.

III. My sins cry aloud to heaven for vengeance, and I have deserved thy wrath and heavy displeasure against me : thou hast cast me down upon the bed of sickness, and I begin to fall as leaves beaten with a vehement wind ; yet thy chastisements are less than my deservings, but of thy mercy and goodness, O Lord, correct me not to death, but to amendment of life ; for thine own sake, for thy holy Name's sake, for thy Son Christ Jesus's sake, be merciful unto my sins, for they are great.

IV. Spare thy servant, good Lord, which confesseth his sins unto thee, pour the oil of thy sanctifying grace unto my heart, and work thereby in me a true and immediate repentance, and restore me again to thy favour, according to that gracious pro-

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mise to humble penitents ; let thy merciful providence so guide and govern me in this affliction thou hast been pleased to lay upon me, that I may never fall into utter darkness, ignorance of thee, or inconsideration of myself.

V. Let the faintness of my spirit, and the condemnation of myself be overcome by thy irresistible light : thou that art the God of all consolation, grant that I may be mindful of the great account I have to make at the day of judgment, and that I may bear in my mind the reward which is due to the faithful, the end of misery, and the beginning of all happiness ; but to the secure and careless, the beginning of eternal punishment.

VI. Strengthen my faith, accept my penitential tears, speak peace to my soul and conscience, and say, thou art my salvation ;

then let thy holy spirit descend into my heart, with this express, *my grace is sufficient for thee*; then shall my heart leap for joy, and my soul shall be exceeding glad, desiring to be dissolved, and be at peace, that after this frail mortal life is ended, I may enjoy the eternal fruition of thy heavenly presence.

VII. Suffer me not, O Lord, in this my trial, to be possessed with a fear of condemnation; or to despond of thy promises; but in sure confidence of heart, apply myself to the remission of all my sins, that at the last hour, by faith in Jesus Christ, I may enjoy a taste of eternal salvation: let not death (if thou art pleased to send it) be terrible or bitter unto me; but when it cometh, I may rejoicingly receive the same; and having escaped the storm of temptation, and the dangers of Satan,

I may triumph like a conqueror,
and behold the power and presence
of thy holy Spirit.

VIII. Let my last words be the same which thy Son did utter upon the cross, saying *Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit*; and when my speech is departed from me, hear the groanings and sighs of my heart, and the desire of my soul; that at the last thy servant may depart in peace, and reach those heavenly mansions prepared for him: my soul, O Lord, heartily desireth to attain to that supernatural city, whereof such glorious things are spoken.

IX. Breathe inward comforts to my heart; though my body be going the way of all flesh, yet let my soul go the way of all saints. Lord, hear me and help me, stand by me and save me, and if thou hast determined to lay my body

in the grave, receive my soul into thy kingdom, to rest in joy and peace for evermore, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A PRAYER TO BE SAID^d BY THOSE
THAT VISIT THE SICK.

O MOST gracious God, who hast compassion upon all men, and hatest nothing that thou hast made, mercifully we beseech thee, to have compassion on this thy servant, who by thy visitation hath been sorely afflicted, and, by the same, even brought to the end of his days, and period of his life; be pleased therefore, good Lord, to have mercy upon him, accept of him as the work of thine own hands, a lamb of thy fold, thy servant redeemed by Jesus Christ, who is willing, by thy appointment, to leave this miserable world, in full assurance of

thy mercy in Jesus Christ for the remission of his sins.

II. Guide him, good Lord, in this his last journey ; that being quit of all the troubles of this transitory life, he may be safely conducted by thy power to the haven of eternal happiness, into the arms of boundless mercy, to everlasting peace and perpetual joys, there to reign with all the company of blessed saints and angels with thee in continual bliss for evermore.

III. And, gracious God, we beseech thee, by thy abundant goodness, by the multitude of thy tender mercies and compassion, by the merits of thy bitter death and bloody passion, by thy glorious resurrection and ascension, and by the coming of thy holy and blessed Spirit, have mercy upon him, deliver him from the

burden and guilt of his sins, from the fears and terrors of death, and from the fury and power of hell.

IV. Lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon him, that in all the pains of his body, in all the agonies of his spirit, thy comforts may refresh his soul, and enable him patiently to wait till his change shall come: and grant O Lord, that when this earthly house and tabernacle of his body shall be dissolved, he may have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens; and that for his sake, who, by his most precious blood, hath purchased salvation for all those who truly believe in him, even Jesus Christ our only Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

MEDITATIONS AFTER RECOVERY.

PSALM 116.

1. **I** AM well pleased, that the Lord hath heard the voice of my prayer.

2. That he hath inclined his ear unto me ; therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

3. The snares of death compassed me round about ; and the pains of hell gat hold of me.

4. I shall find trouble and heaviness, and I will call upon the name of the Lord : O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

5. Gracious is the Lord and righteous, yea, our God is merciful.

6. The Lord preserveth the simple : I was in misery, and he helped me.

7. Turn again then unto thy rest, O my soul, for the Lord hath rewarded thee.

8. And why? thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.

9. I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

10. I believed, and therefore will I speak; I was sore troubled; I said in mine haste all men are liars.

11. What reward shall I give unto the Lord for all the benefits that he hath done unto me?

12. I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.

13. I will pay my vows now in the presence of all his people: right dear in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

14. Behold, O Lord, how that I am thy servant: I am thy servant and the son of thy handmaid. Thou hast broken my bonds in sunder.

15. I will offer to thee the sa-

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crifice of thanksgiving; and will call upon the name of the Lord.

16. I will pay my vows unto the Lord, in the sight of all his people, in the courts of the Lord's house, even in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

A THANKSGIVING AFTER RECOVERY.

O HOLY and immortal God, I laud and praise thy holy name, that thou hast been pleased to deliver me from the jaws of death, and the pit of corruption, and in some measure restored me again to my former health, crowning me with thy mercy and loving-kindness: my soul and all that is within me shall magnify thee: I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will extol thee, O thou that dwellest in the heavens.

II. It is thou alone that hast preserved my life from destruction : Thou didst cast me down upon my bed of sickness, and hast raised me up again by thy almighty power : thou hast chastened and corrected me, but not given me over unto death. My time is in thine hand, O God, thou art the God of the spirits of all flesh ; grant that this remnant of life, that thou hast thus graciously spared, may be wholly dedicated to thy service, that I may walk before thee in newness and amendment of life.

III. O thou that art the only physician of soul and body, thou hast once more permitted me to take up my bed, and walk ; O make me strictly careful, as the watches of the night, to be vigilant over all my thoughts, words, and actions, that I may sin no more, lest a worse thing happen

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unto me. Let not this great mercy thou hast now given me, make me supine and negligent, and entertain those thoughts, that my Lord delayeth his coming: but grant, I beseech thee, that I may make a right use of this thy fatherly chastisement, and employ the remainder of my life to thy glory.

IV. I have found by experience of thy afflicting hand, what a dreadful thing it is to be snatched away by the hands of death, without our accounts, and unprepared: O let it be a perpetual admonition to me, to stand upon my guard, and to watch for my Master's coming; and whenever the pleasures of sin, which endure but for a season, shall present themselves to entice and allure me, make me to remember the bitterness of them at last. Lord, hear me, and grant me grace to work out my own salvation,

for thy dear Son's sake. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FIT TO BE SAID AT ANY
TIME.

O MOST gracious and powerful Lord God, who createdst all things out of nothing, and supportest the whole universe by thy providence; I confess, O Lord, I was conceived in original sin, and am now full of actual transgressions.

II. But I know blessed Jesus, thy grace is sufficient for me; thy mercy can express itself in my misery. I know and confess O Lord, that my sins are exceeding many, mighty, and heinous, yet thy mercy is far greater; for thou art infinite in mercy; but I cannot be infinite in sinning; and the righteousness of Christ Jesus the righteous, is more prevalent for me than my own unrighte-

ousness can be against myself.

III. The fountain of thy mercy O God, hath quenched the fire of thy justice, and graceless man falling from goodness, is by thee repossessed of greatness. Wherefore I humbly beseech thee, O Lord, give me the grace of continual thankfulness, strengthen my weakness, correct my sinfulness, direct my future frailty, protect me against the adversary, kindle my zeal, enlighten my understanding, soften my stony heart, and save for ever my immortal soul.

IV. And though my whole life, O Lord, hath been impure and defiled in thy sight, yet through thy precious blood and passion, by thy all-sufficient sacrifice, obligation, and satisfaction, avert my deserved punishment, and convert my past evils to present good

and future joys, in thine eternal and most glorious kingdom.

V. Pardon, good Lord, my loss of time, my abuse of thy good creatures, my negligence in my lawful employment; my unthankfulness of thy loving kindness; and whatsoever is wanting in my person, practice, prayer, or thanksgiving, make a supply of it in the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ: to whom, with thee and thy blessed Spirit, be all praise and glory, now and evermore. *Amen.*

PRAYERS

For all Persons and Occasions.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast revealed thy glory both to *Jews*, and *Gentiles*,

in our Lord Jesus Christ; extend thy providence and mercy over all the world, that thy church may spread like a flourishing vine, and enlarge her borders to the uttermost parts of the earth, that all nations partaking of the refreshments of thy gospel, thy name may be glorified, the honour of our Lord Jesus advanced, his prophecies fulfilled, and his coming hastened.

II. Bless, O Lord, thy holy catholic and apostolick church, with all blessings of comfort, assistance and preservation: extirpate heresies; unite her divisions; give her patience and perseverance in the faith, and confession of thy name, in despite of all her enemies, temptations, and disadvantages; destroy all wicked counsels intended or levied against her or any of her children, by the devil or any of his accursed

instruments : let the hands of thy grace and mercy lead her from this vale of misery to the triumphant throne of her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR THE KING.

WE beseech thee, O Lord, to bless and preserve thy servant *George*, our most gracious king and governor, with the richest blessings of thy grace and favour : Be unto him a helmet of salvation against the face of his enemies ; and a strong tower of defence in the time of adversity ; as for his enemies, let them be clothed with shame, but upon himself let his crown for ever flourish. Grant him a long and prosperous reign ; let peace and unity, holiness and justice, truth and all christian virtues, flourish in his time. Let all his subjects aithfully serve him with honour

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and due obedience ; and let him so truly serve thee, his God, here on earth, that he may hereafter everlastingly reign with thee in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR THE ROYAL FAMILY.

O GOD, the Father of all mercies, bless and preserve all the royal family ; unite them unto thee with the bands of faith and love, preserve them to their lives end in thy faith, make them instruments of glory to thy name, of refreshment to the church, of joy to all faithful people of this kingdom ; prosper them with all happiness here on earth, and crown them at last with an eternal weight of glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR OUR PARENTS.

ALMIGHTY God, who from the loins of our first parents *Adam* and *Eve*, didst produce mankind, and hast commanded us to honour and obey our parents; in pursuance of thy holy will and commandment, and of our duty to thee our God, and in thee to them, we do with all humility beg a blessing of thee for our parents, who from thy mercy and plenty, have conveyed many to us; pardon and forgive all their sins and infirmities, increase in them all goodness, give them blessings of the right hand, and blessings of the left; bless them in their persons and posterity, in their goods and good name, in the comforts of thy holy Spirit, in a persevering goodness, and at last in an eternal weight of glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**A PRAYER OF PARENTS FOR THEIR
CHILDREN.**

O GOD, the Creator of all the world, by whose providence mankind is propagated: I bless thy holy name for bestowing on me the blessing of children. Lord, bless them with life and health, with good understanding, fair opportunities and advantages of good education ; but above all, with thy holy Spirit, that they may live and be blessed under thy protection, grow in grace, and be in favour with God and man, and at last may make up the number of thine elect children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**A PRAYER FOR OUR FRIENDS AND
BENEFACTORS.**

O THOU fountain of all goodness, from whom proceeds

all excellency both to men and angels, extend thy favour and loving kindness to all my friends and benefactors. Reward them, and make them a plentiful compensation for all the benefits, which from thy merciful hand of providence they have conveyed unto me. Let the light of thy countenance so shine upon them, as they may never enter into any desolation or affliction, but such as may be instrumental to thy glory, and their eternal comfort, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

**A PRAYER OF A WIFE FOR HER
HUSBAND.**

BLESSED Lord, who hast been graciously pleased to call me to the holy state of matrimony, bless me in it with the grace of charity, loyalty, obedience, and a dutiful complacency to my hus-

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band. Bless him with a long life, a healthy body, and an understanding heart; and furnish him with all those gifts and graces which may enable him to be and continue thy servant, that he may be a supporter and a guide to me his wife, a blessing and a comfort to his children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER OF A HUSBAND FOR HIS
WIFE.

O MOST gracious God, who art a father to us thy children, a spouse to thy holy church, a Saviour and Redeemer to all mankind; have mercy upon thy handmaid my wife; endue her with all the ornaments of thy heavenly grace; that being filled with grace and benediction here, she may be partaker of thy glory hereafter, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER OF AN ORPHAN.

O GOD, gracious and merciful, who art ready to succour all those that are distressed, and hast promised to be a Father to the fatherless : have mercy upon me, O Lord, I humbly beseech thee, who am left a poor orphan, and by thy heavenly will and pleasure, deprived of my earthly parents : supply, O Lord, all my wants and necessities ; guide, govern, and comfort me with thy good Spirit, that in all my words, works, and actions, I may glorify thee my heavenly father. Let thy heavenly grace sustain me, and work in me obedience to my superiors, and those who have the charge and care over me ; that they discharging a good conscience towards me, I may, by thy ready help, improve my time, to the praise and glory of thy holy name,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE WIDOW'S PRAYER.

O MOST holy Lord God, the Comforter of all those who are in any affliction, sorrow, or trouble: the bonds of death, by thy appointment, have made a separation between me and him whom thou gavest to be my husband, who was my head and supreme governor, and the only guide I had in this world next under thee. Grant me grace to bear this cross and loss patiently, and to put my whole trust and confidence in thee; let thy tender care, go along with me, preserving me from all oppression and wrong, and deliver me from the hands of those who would devour widow's houses. Bless me, O Lord, as thou didst the poor widow of *Sarepta*, let not the barrel

of meal waste, but grant me a competency, fit for my estate; neither let the cruse of oil fail, but assist me with thy grace, that I may walk worthily towards thee, and all the world. Let my continual prayers and supplications ascend up to thee, and hear, O Lord, and have mercy when I cry unto thee, for the alone sake of thy dear Son, my only Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

THE SERVANT'S PRAYER.

O MOST mighty God, and the great Lord and Master of all the world, who beholdest with thine all-seeing eye, thy great household and family here on earth; look upon me thine unworthy servant, I humbly beseech thee, with thine eye of providence, grant me a contented mind in that state thou hast placed me in, so shall I enjoy a continual feast:

assist me, O Lord, with thy heavenly grace, that I may perform obedience, and may be subject to my earthly masters, whom thou hast been pleased to set over me, whether they be good or evil, courteous or froward. Prosper all the designs I shall take in hand, in this my servitude, which are not in opposition to thy commands: preserve and keep me from all evil, that no enticements may allure me, either to embezzle away any thing committed to my custody, or have society with such who are enemies to my master's house. Let me cheerfully proceed in my service, that the glass of my time may run out with pleasure, and I in the end shall be made free of that city of thine, the *New Jerusalem*, where I may rest for evermore. *Amen.*

THE MAIDEN'S PRAYER.

O HOLY Lord God, let thine handmaid speak in thine audience, and hearken unto her when she calleth upon thee. Though I know not how to ask aright, yet teach me the knowledge of thee, and how to beg those things that are requisite and necessary for me. Enlighten my soul with thy divine inspiration, that I may see and do those things that appertain unto godliness. Let me keep my honest reputation in the eyes of the world, knowing that a *good name* is better than *precious ointment* : but, especially in thy sight, let me be pure, honest, and undefiled, so shall I not be ashamed in the great day of account. Defend me from sin, Satan, and the poison of evil tongues ; assist me with thy directing hand, that the la-

bours which this day I am to undertake, may prosper ; grant me grace to love, honour, and serve thee in holiness and righteousness all my days, that I may glorify thy holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR ONE AFFLICTED IN
MIND.

O ETERNAL Lord God, who art fearful in praises, doing wonders, I tremble, and am even at death's door ; for, alas ! I am the vilest of all sinners, my conscience is so clogged with evil, that I cannot look up ; my wickednesses have gone over my head, and are as a burthen then too heavy for me to bear ; my spirit is sorrowful, my heart is heavy, my words are stopped with sighs, and my plaints watered with tears ; O Lord, what shall I desire of thee, that deserve nothing

at thy hand ? What can I hope for, that am even hopeless ? My conscience is restless, and my ungodliness fettereth me, and even all my unrighteous actions cry out for vengeance against me ; my spirit is overwhelmed and weary of this bondage, and I have bid my life farewell.

II. O but let thy Majesty, O Lord, yet appear in thy mercy ; forgive my sin the unhappy ground of all this woe : where my misery hath thus abounded, there let thy mercy much more abound ; I dare not add this grievous sin unto my other sins, to despair of thy mercy : what were more sacrilegious ? for thou art a skilful physician, and canst cure all my infirmities ; thou art a merciful God, and canst forgive all my sins : to thee do I fly for refuge, who art the land of safety ; to thee do I lift up my

hands and my heart, and to thee do I pray, desiring thy mercy. Let the power of thy Son's death and passion defeat all the devices of the devil against me.

III. Instruct me in thy heavenly wisdom, lead me in thy truth, in this dangerous sea of discontentment and affliction : keep me from shipwreck, and bring me safe to the land of peace. Strengthen my faith, sanctify all those good means unto me wherein I seek relief, as prayer, conference, reading and hearing thy holy word. Mitigate my perplexities, grant me patience, heal my imperfections : thou that wilt not break a bruised reed, spare and have mercy upon me ; thou that delightest not in the death of a sinner receive me ; though my heart condemns me, yet do thou release me. O Lord, hear, O Lord, forgive, O Lord, defer not,

but even now speak peace unto me, say unto my soul, I am thy salvation ; to whom be ascribed all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

A THANKSGIVING FOR GOD'S SENDING HIS SON TO SAVE MANKIND.

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful Lord God, we might utterly despair, and be cast down, considering our manifold sins and infinite offences, had not thy word been made flesh, and dwelt among us, but now we dare not despair ; for if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled unto thee by the death of thy Son, now much more, being reconciled, are we saved by his life ! All our hope, and all ~~our~~ confidence is reposed in that precious blood, which was shed for us, and for our salvation.

II. O how greatly are we bound to fear thee, to love thee, to bless and praise thee, to honour thee, and to glorify thee! seeing we are redeemed at such a price, saved with such gifts, cherished with so many promises and blessings of the same, even thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ! Establish, O God, that which thou hast wrought in us; finish what thou hast begun, that we may be able to come into the fulness of thy mercy; make us through thy holy Spirit to understand, and through thy Son to discern, and with due honour reverence thy high mystery of godliness, how *God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the gentiles, believed on in the world and received up into glory.* Where we doubt not but we shall reign with him for evermore. *Amen.*

THE PRAYER OF A WOMAN WITH
CHILD.

O GOD the Creator and Redeemer of all mankind, comforter of all that call upon thee, and the only deliverer of such as are in danger ; be merciful, I beseech thee, and look down in mercy from thy throne upon the fruit of my womb ; behold, I seek and sue unto thee for a blessing at this time : my sin is great, my danger at hand not small ; my pains to come will be grievous, and my life is now most uncertain.

II. Assure me, I beseech thee, of the forgiveness of all my sins, mitigate my fear, and assuage my sorrows, strengthen me with the refreshing of thy Spirit, confirm me in the faith of my Saviour, and bless all good means appointed for my comfort, that in due

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time I may be a joyful mother, and see the fruit of my body, safe, sound, and perfect, without blemish or deformity.

III. O Lord, I know not how soon my travail will overtake me, when I must encounter with life or death ! One drop of thy mercy hath sovereign power to cure all the wounds of those sorrows : shed therefore, O holy Father, that drop of grace upon me in that minute, when I am to encounter with so stern an adversary : strengthen me with patience, preserve me that I perish not.

IV. Let not the child yet unborn, the babe in my womb, be punished for my offences, but give it growth, form, and what thou seest in thy good pleasure to be fit and necessary for it ; and when the time is come that thou wilt call it out of this close house of flesh,

Thanksgiving after Delivery. 139

where it now inhabiteth, to dwell in the open world, sanctify thy creature: make it by baptism a member of thy church, a lamb of thy flock, and direct it in the ways of thy commandments to its life's end. *Amen.*

A THANKSGIVING BY THE WOMAN,
AFTER DELIVERY.

BLESSED Lord God, I yield thee all honour, glory, and praise, who hast now delivered me from the great pain and peril of child-birth, who hast taken away my reproach, and made me an instrument to increase thy kingdom. It is in thy power to strike death into my womb, but thou hast given me a double life; all mine anguishes thou hast sweetened with gladness. Continue thy mercies and favours to me thy servant, that my lips may render thee my hearty thanks.

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II. Look upon this my infant, which thou hast given me ; preserve it in health, quicken it with grace, crown it with long life, that it may grow up to be a servant in thine household : send the father of it and me much comfort by it, that it may be a staff to our old age : bless it with store of friends in this world, and be thou a chief friend to it for evermore.

III. And for its better growth in grace, feed it with the milk of thy holy word, defend it from all dangers ghostly and bodily : guard me, and regard this my birth, that Satan rule not, nor reign within us, but deliver us still out of his jaws, as a *bird out of the snare of the fowler* ; let thy blessing, O Lord, be upon me and my children, and evermore keep and defend us. *Amen.*

A THANKSGIVING AFTER A DELIVERANCE FROM ANY CALAMITY.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast suffered thy church so to be tempted with afflictions, that it is never free either from the sword of *Ishmael*, which is a reviling tongue, or the sword of *Esau*, a persecuting hand; having taught us all to drink of the same cup our Master did; strengthen me with patience, direct me by thy Spirit, and uphold me by faith. Though troubles are many and increase daily, yet thou, O Lord, knowest how to deliver us out of all; *heaviness may endure for a night, but joy will come in the morning.* Doubtless there is a reward for the righteous, and a rod for the wicked.

II. I have lately tasted of thy goodness, O Lord, I have now

been sensible of thy mercy in great measure by this great deliverance. I have had the experience many times of thy loving-kindness, but never more than in thy late favours. Thou hast put life again into my soul; thou hast not dealt with me according to my sins, nor rewarded me according to mine iniquities. As high as the heaven is above the earth, so great is thy mercy towards them that fear thee; since thy mercy O Lord, hath been so great towards me, grant that I may love thee more zealously, fear thee more reverently, and obey thee more carefully, all the days of my life. Give me therefore patience in trouble, a constancy in hope, rooted and grounded in love; and so bring me, O Lord, from this valley of tears to life everlasting. *Amen.*

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